

North Carolina Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2005

Members Present: Patricia Ann Bauer, Mary Bethel, Lucy Dorsey, Ed Seavey, Dan Fox, Esther High, Diann Irwin, Bill Jones, Kelly Jones, Libby Jones, Jeff McLoud, Tisha O'Neal Gamboa, Mary Recca Todd, Mark Urban, Sheila Wall-Hill, Laura White

Members Absent: Rich Greb, Linner Ward Griffin, Patricia Harris, Kaye Holder (excused), Ellen Holliman (excused), Phyllis Kennedy, Frank Read, (excused), Pat Prescott, Pat Solomon, Carolyn Wiser, Laura Yates

Staff to Council: Darlene Creech, Rachel Holley, Lisa Jackson

Others: Julia Bick, Kay Johnson, Cecilia Burress

Handouts

1. *MHPC Member Address Update*
2. *MHPC Member Attendance Update*
3. *03-04-05 MHPC Meeting Agenda*
4. *01-07-05 Draft MHPC Minutes*
5. *Communication Bulletin #032: Videoconference for Consumers and Families*
6. *"Welcome Home!" A Report on Housing for North Carolinians with Disabilities*
7. *North Carolina Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, Executive Summary*
8. *2004 Real Choice Systems Change Grant, Integrating Long Term Supports with Affordable Housing in North Carolina*
9. *Resilience and Recovery in Children's Mental Health, Presented at System of Care Community Meeting, February 7-12, 2005, Dallas Texas*
10. *FAQ: Recovery, Resilience, and Children's Mental Health*
11. *LME Housing Contacts for Information and Referral*
12. *Communication Bulletin #032 Videoconference for Consumers and Families*
13. *"New Service Definitions Orientation for Consumers and Their Families" information flyer*
14. *Employment/Supported Employment Workgroup, February 11, 2005 Draft Minutes*
15. *Division Directory for Community Policy Management/Best Practice and Community Innovations*
16. *North Carolina Council of Community Programs Legislative Update, February 25, 2003*
17. *Reimbursement Form*

Call to Order/Introductions

Libby Jones, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. She welcomed all members and introduced the new members recently appointed to the Council by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services: Patricia Ann Bauer, Esther High, Kelly Jones, Tisha O'Neal Gamboa, Ed Seavey, Pat Solomon, and Mark Urban. All members briefly commented on their backgrounds and experience.

The minutes of the January 7, 2005 meeting were approved as circulated.

Housing and Homelessness Issues

Julia Bick, Housing Coordinator with the Office of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, presented information about North Carolina's housing initiatives. She shared background information about the lack of affordable housing and about research in the late 1990's around the "chronic homeless" population. The chronic homeless population is not high in numbers, but high in resource utilization. As a response to the research, states were required to develop ten-year plans to address the chronic homeless issue. Part of North Carolina's response included funding the first homeless policy position, housed in the DHHS.

Ms. Bick distributed the Executive Summary of "North Carolina Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness." The mission of the plan is to significantly reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness across the state by prevention strategies, expanding access to safe, permanent affordable housing and expanding access to support services.

Ms. Bick also informed the participants about the Real Choice Systems Change Grant: Integrating Long Term Supports with Affordable Housing in North Carolina awarded to North Carolina. The grant is a partnership between the N.C. DHHS and the N.C. Housing Finance Agency (HFA). The grant is designed to bring technical assistance to local communities to expand the collective capacity of the human service system to maximize community housing resources and promote the expansion of affordable community housing opportunities integrated with long term supports for persons with disabilities. North Carolina was one of only 7 states to receive the grant.

Kay Johnson, the DMH/DD/SAS Housing Coordinator, reported on the Division's housing initiatives. She stated that for mental health reform to be successful, the following things were essential: strong local service capacity, availability of personnel, and access to housing in the community. To address the latter issue, the DMH/DD/SAS created a Housing Task Force, which made several recommendations in an August 18, 2004 report entitled "Welcome Home!" Ms. Johnson distributed this report.

Ms. Johnson noted that 19 housing specialists now exist at the local level. She is working closely with these specialists, sharing information and encouraging partnering opportunities. There are limited resources to draw on, and meeting to share ideas is a good way to maximize resources.

Effective July 1, 2005, housing outcome measures will be piloted in N.C. TOPPS (Treatment Outcomes Performance Program System). This measurement tool will provide valuable information about where consumers are living and if they are satisfied with their housing arrangements.

Debbie Webster was not able to attend and present on the PATH grant.

Updates and Reports

Supported Employment Workgroup: Dan Fox reported on the Employment/Supported Employment Workgroup's meeting on February 11, 2005 and distributed the meeting draft minutes. The purpose of the Workgroup is to make recommendations regarding effective supportive employment for all of the disability groups served by DMH/DD/SAS. In SFY 2003-04, DMH/DD/SAS spent over \$7 million in Supported Employment services. The Workgroup has identified the following major issues to address: long-term vocational support services, marketing to increase awareness of and support for supported employment for people with disabilities, and communication and coordination across divisions and agencies to insure strong partnerships with consumers and stakeholders.

Youth Transition Workgroup: In Susan Robinson's absence, Lisa Jackson gave a report on Healthy Transitions for Youth, a small interagency group facilitated by DSS. The group is involved in transition planning for youth aging out of foster care. The group has just begun to meet; additional information will be available at the May 2005 MHPC meeting.

Division Updates: Lisa reported that there had been three training sessions on the Medicaid Service Definitions. Over 2000 people attended. There will be additional training for providers as well as training for consumers and families. Lisa and Chair Libby Jones encouraged all members to comment on the service definitions, which are posted for comment on Medicaid's web page. Libby asked Rachel to email the link to the web page to all members.

In Susan Robinson's absence, Lisa reported the following information relative to Division Child Mental Health activities:

- DMH/DD/SAS teams are working on crisis services planning and guidance; access, screening and triage guidance; high risk youth service planning; residential service rules and definitions; and comprehensive diagnostic assessment.
- Core APA rules around provider competencies are being reviewed for recommendations for change.
- SAMHSA grants are out for child mental health. The Division and the State Collaborative are considering the next steps in the application process.
- State Collaborative will meet March 18, 2005 to do strategic planning.
- DMA has participated in a number of legislative studies and committees including prevention of child abuse/neglect, prevention of domestic violence, cultural competence and mh/sa treatment and early childhood system changes (especially workforce development)

Lisa reported on Division Adult Mental Health activities. She reported that representatives were sent to the Policy Academy to develop an action plan, which was submitted to SAMHSA. The plan addresses how North Carolina can be aware of and provide best practice services to consumers with co-occurring disorders. The State is awaiting comments on the plan before deciding the next steps.

The DMH/DD/SAS and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation submitted a grant to establish three Evidence-Based Practice Supported Employment sites in the state. These sites would provide employment services to people with mental illness. Final decisions on the grant awards will be announced the end of March.

Lisa distributed the DMH/DD/SAS Best Practice staff roster and reported that Sabrina Daniel's name should be removed and Michael Eisen's name added. Mr. Eisen transferred to the Best Practice Team from Justice Systems-DWI Suite.

Laura White gave an update on hospital downsizing. Before individuals can be discharged, community based services and local supports for the consumer have to be identified. Over \$7.7M in Mental Health Trust Funds have been allocated to LMEs thus far to help in building community capacity. Through SFY 2004, more than \$15.3M in recurring funds have been transferred from the state hospitals' budgets to the LMEs to fund community mental health services.

She stated that upon discharge, the majority of consumers less than 60 years of age are going to group homes or family care homes. Consumers over the age of 60 often need nursing home level of care. They also go to adult care homes.

Across the board there is an increase in admissions to the state facilities, especially for children. The State is being very cautious about encouraging discharges, however, until community capacity is built.

Committee Reports

Adult: Jeff McLoud reported that the Adult Subcommittee met February 4, 2005. The subcommittee participants discussed:

- Wake Medical Center's recent announcement of interest in establishing psychiatric inpatient beds when Dorothea Dix closes
- possible MHPC meeting topics:
 - the homeless situation of adults with mental illness and the possibility of having Julia Bick and Kaye Johnson present on this issue at the March 4, 2005 MHPC meeting
 - consumer directed care and the possibility of Joe Donovan, NAMI, presenting. Jeff mentioned the possibility of also seeing "NC's Talking," a 15-minute video on this subject.
 - persons living in adult care homes and the possibility of Ann Johnson presenting
 - serving individuals in the prison system with Laura Yates and Bob Kurtz presenting
 - continued updates from the Division on mental health reform
- the Commission for MH/DD/SAS voting to proceed with rule-making for a complaint/appeals process for non-Medicaid consumers

- the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, according to Dan Fox, provides some limiting funding for mental health counseling
- the Medicaid Service Definitions (Lisa gave an overview of these.)

Child and Family: Sheila Wall-Hill reported that the Child Subcommittee had met twice. The subcommittee participants discussed:

- possible MHPC meeting topics:
 - ❑ having a presentation regarding the child-related segments of the Mental Health Block grant
 - ❑ consumer directed care
 - ❑ legislative update
- considering having the subcommittee face-to-face meeting after the full MHPC meeting with a telephone meeting in between the full meetings
- assuring that members commented on the Medicaid service definitions

WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)

Due to lack of time, this topic was deferred until the next meeting.

Wrap-Up

Reimbursement forms were distributed to the members with the note that the allowable per mile reimbursement changed to \$.257 effective January 1, 2005.

Bill Jones distributed a Raleigh News and Observer article entitled “Mentally Ill Teen’s Suit Could Alter Statewide Care.”

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.